

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for disseminating information stored in a plurality of nodes connected via a common communication medium, the method comprising:

(a) supplying the information to be disseminated to a first node; and

(b) causing the first node to automatically disseminate the information to a first plurality of nodes which are immediately known to the first node when the information is updated, wherein the immediate family of nodes is a subset of the plurality of nodes connected via the communication medium.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising causing at least one node in the first plurality of nodes to disseminate the information received from the first node to a second plurality of nodes which are immediately known to the at least one node in the first plurality of nodes.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising causing at least one node in an  $n^{\text{th}}$  plurality of nodes to disseminate the information received from at least one node in an  $n^{\text{th}}-1$  plurality of nodes to an  $n^{\text{th}}+1$  plurality of nodes which are immediately known to the at least one node in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  plurality of nodes.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the information is disseminated to only those nodes which have previously indicated an interest in the information.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein only the most recent information is disseminated to the first plurality of nodes, the second plurality of nodes and the  $n^{\text{th}}+1$  plurality of nodes.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information comprises at least one module containing a plurality of module blocks.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information comprises at least one module block of a module containing a plurality of module blocks.